

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 4004-025-30
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/04199	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 1 MAY 2000	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/926519
TITLE OF INVENTION AN AUTOMOTIVE GLAZING PANEL WITH SOLAR CONTROL COATING COMPRISING A DATA TRANSMISSION WINDOW		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US DEGAND, Etienne; MAZA, Christophe		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not necessary as the International Application was filed in English. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (if any) made during the international stage are hereby reversed as to the U.S. application. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). 		
<p>Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <p>Copy of the published International Application (WO 00/72634) Copy of the Written Opinion</p>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/926519	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/04199	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 4004-025-30
24. The following fees are submitted.:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :		
<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$890.00
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 \$130.00		
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
Total claims	8 - 20 =	0
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$1,020.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. \$0.00		
SUBTOTAL =		\$1,020.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 + \$0.00		
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$1,020.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$1,020.00
		Amount to be: refunded <input type="checkbox"/> \$ charged <input type="checkbox"/> \$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1442 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.		
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.		
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:		
Supervisor, Patent Prosecution Services PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE, LLP 1200 Nineteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20036-2412 US		
 SCHNEIDER, Jerold I. NAME _____ 24,765 REGISTRATION NUMBER _____ 14 NOVEMBER 2001 DATE _____		

09/926519

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 NOV 2001

Docket No.: 4004-025-30

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)
IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: DEGAND, Etienne, et al.

INTL. APPLICATION NO.: PCT/EP00/04199

SERIAL NUMBER: NEW U.S. NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION

INTL. FILING DATE: 1 MAY 2000

FOR: AN AUTOMOTIVE GLAZING PANEL WITH SOLAR COATING COMPRISING A
DATA TRANSMISSION WINDOW

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. National Stage application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following, including a section heading:

--This application is the U.S. national stage of International Application

No. PCT/EP00/04199 filed May 1, 2000 which claims priority from European Patent Application

No. 99201566.9 filed May 20, 1999. The entirety of each of those applications is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, between lines 10 and 11, insert the section heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 4, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following, including a section and its heading and an additional section heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an expanded schematic view of a car windscreen; and

Fig. 2 is an expanded schematic view of a car windscreen.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 through 7, 9 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Add the following new claims 11-17.

11. (New) An automotive glazing panel having

an electrically heatable solar control coating layer;

spaced first and second bus bars adapted to relay electrical power to the coating layer;

a data transmission window;

the first bus bar positioned adjacent a first side edge of the glazing panel;

the second bus bar positioned adjacent a second side edge of the glazing panel; and one of

the following:

(a) the data transmission window is positioned adjacent the top edge of the glazing panel;

(b) the data transmission window is positioned against the bottom edge of the glazing panel.

12. (New) The automotive glazing panel in accordance with claim 11 and further including at least one of the following:

- (c) the data transmission window is substantially elongate in shape with its elongation stretching substantially parallel to the top edge of the glazing panel;
- (d) the data transmission window is substantially elongate in shape with its elongation stretching substantially parallel to the bottom edge of the glazing panel;
- (e) the data transmission window is at least partially surrounded by the coating layer;
- (f) the data transmission window is substantially surrounded by the coating layer;
- (g) the minimum distance between the periphery of the data transmission window and either of the first bus bar or second bus bar is at least 300 mm.

13. (New) The automotive glazing panel in accordance with claim 11 in which the glazing panel is an automotive windscreens.

14. (New) A method of controlling heat dissipation over at least a part of the surface area of an automotive glazing panel comprising providing a glazing panel made in accordance with claim 8.

15. (New) A method in accordance with claim 14 in which the heat dissipation is controlled substantially evenly over a majority of the surface area of the glazing panel.

16. (New) A method of controlling heat dissipation over at least a part of the surface area of an automotive glazing panel comprising providing a glazing panel made in accordance with claim 11.

17. (New) A method in accordance with claim 16 in which the heat dissipation is controlled substantially evenly over a majority of the surface area of the glazing panel.--.

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JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 NOV 2001

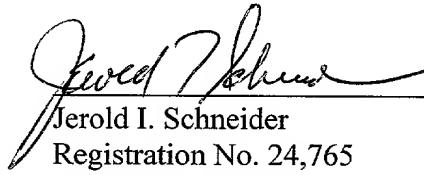
REMARKS

This is the entry into the U.S National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP00/04199 filed May 1, 2000. The foregoing amendments are to place this application into U.S. format. Claims 8 and 11 through 17 are pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for examination. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE LLP



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AN AUTOMOTIVE GLAZING PANEL WITH SOLAR CONTROL COATING COMPRISING A DATA TRANSMISSION WINDOW

This invention relates to glazing panels and particularly but not exclusively to vehicle windscreens provided with electrically heatable coating stacks.

Whilst the primary role of a vehicle windscreen is to permit good visibility for a driver, various additional features may be incorporated into its design. Sensors or emitters arranged inside the vehicle may rely on electromagnetic data transmission through the windscreen. For example, passage of an electromagnetic data signal for automatic payment at the toll barriers used on the French motorway system may pass through the windscreen. It is also known to provide a window in the band of black enamel around the periphery of the windscreen, usually along the bottom edge of the windscreen, through which a vehicle identification number or chassis number, often in the form of a bar code, can be read from the outside of the vehicle.

US Patent N° 4,668,270 (Ford Motor Company) describes a car windscreen having an electrically heatable coating layer used for defrosting, de-icing and/or de-misting. The heatable coating, which is laminated between the two glass sheets of the windscreen, is supplied with electrical power via first and second bus bars which extend respectively along the top and bottom edges of the windscreen, each bus bar being silk screen printed on the glass in a silver ceramic material. The heatable coating is a multilayer coating consisting of layers of zinc oxide and silver formed by magnetron sputtering.

Coating layers are well known not only to provide an electrically heatable element but also to modify the optical properties of the glass, particularly to reduce the proportion of incident solar energy which is transmitted through the glass whilst allowing passage of sufficient visible light to ensure good visibility. This can reduce overheating of the interior of the vehicle in summer and is commonly achieved by reflection of incident solar radiation in the infra-red portion of the spectrum. EP378917A (Nippon Sheet Glass Co.) discloses such coating layers. The term solar control coating layer as used herein refers to a coating layer which increases the selectivity of the glazing panel i.e. the ratio of the proportion of incident visible radiation transmitted through the glazing to the proportion of incident solar energy transmitted through the glazing. Many solar control coating layers have the intrinsic property of being electrically heatable.

When a solar control coating is provided on a windscreen it is advantageous for the solar control coating to cover the entire light transmitting portion of the windscreen so as to reflect as much of the incident solar energy as

possible. A data transmission window in the form of a gap or hole may be provided in a solar reflecting coating layer specifically to allow the passage of electromagnetic waves through that portion of the glazing, for example to a sensor or emitter. One example of this, as referred to above, is to allow passage of an electromagnetic data signal for automatic payment at the toll barriers used on the French motorway system. The principle is nevertheless applicable to allowing passage of any electromagnetic data transmission signal through a glazing panel, particularly using infra-red wavelengths. The term data transmission window as used herein refers to a portion of the surface area of a glazing adapted to permit electromagnetic data transmission therethrough.

According to one aspect, the present invention provides a glazing panel as defined in Claim 1.

According to another aspect, the present invention provides a glazing panel as defined in Claim 2.

The invention allows a heatable solar control coating layer to be combined with a data transmission window in a particularly advantageous way.

The data transmission window may be substantially a four-sided polygon. Preferably, the data transmission window is not electrically coupled to an electrical element.

In one form, the data transmission window may have at least three sides surrounded by the solar control coating layer.

For aesthetic reasons and so as not to impair the driver's vision the bus bars of a heatable coating layer of a car windscreens are usually arranged out of view. It has been common practice for bus bars to be arranged along the top and bottom edges (i.e. the longer two edges of a car windscreens) hidden from the inside of the car by the dashboard and the interior bodywork and hidden from the outside by a band of black enamel (which may have the additional role of blocking solar radiation to prevent deterioration of underlying glue securing the windscreens to the car bodywork). This arrangement has been used to provide a suitable distance and thus an appropriate electrical resistance between the bus bars so as to allow a suitable electrical power to be dissipated in the coating layer to provide the desired heating effect.

Data transmission windows in solar energy reflecting windscreens have generally been arranged towards the top edge of the windscreens, roughly centrally between the two side edges. This may facilitate orientation and positioning of data transmitting and/or receiving instruments.

The inventors have appreciated that simply combining these two known techniques is undesirable as positioning of the data transmission window in close proximity to the upper bus bar results in a significant gap or non-conducting portion adjacent to the bus bar and increased risk of provoking uneven heating and 5 undesirable hot spots in the coating layer.

This problem may be resolved by the invention without requiring repositioning of the data transmission window or fundamental redesigning of either this or the bus bars.

The combination of the data transmission window with the bus bars 10 arranged along the side edges of the windscreens may significantly reduce the perturbation to the flow of electrical current in the coating layer caused by the presence of the data transmission window.

In prior art arrangements having a substantially horizontal bus bar arranged along the top edge of a windscreens, this bus bar must either be connected 15 to an electrical supply by a connector at the top edge of the windscreens or the bus bar must be brought down one side of the windscreens (avoiding contact with the electrically conducting coating layer) so as to allow arrangement of an electrical connector at the bottom edge of the windscreens. Arranging the bus bars adjacent to the side edges of the glazing may help to avoid this problem by allowing for 20 connection at or adjacent to the bottom edge of the windscreens.

Arrangement of the data transmission window in an elongate form may facilitate positioning of data transmitting and/or receiving instruments and passage of data signals. Arranging the elongation along the top or bottom edge of the glazing panel in combination with the defined bus bar arrangement enables a 25 desired surface area for the data transmission window to be selected whilst reducing the width of the interruption in the coating layer between the two bus bars. This may be used to minimise the perturbation of current flow in the coating layer when electrically heated.

The data transmission window preferably has a width comprised 30 between 50 mm and 100 mm, and a length comprised between 80 mm and 210 mm.

The data transmission window may have a width of at least 50 mm, 60 mm, 70 mm, 80 mm, 90 mm or 100 mm. It may have a width of less than 300 mm, 250 mm, 200 mm, 150 mm or 100 mm.

35 The data transmission window may have a length of at least 80 mm, 100 mm, 120 mm, 140 mm, 160 mm, 180 mm or 210 mm. It may have a length of less than 400 mm, 350 mm, 300 mm, 250 mm or 210 mm.

According to another aspect, the present invention provides a glazing panel as defined in Claim 8.

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a method 5 of controlling heat dissipation over at least part of the surface area of an automotive glazing panel as defined in Claim 9.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to Fig 1 and Fig 2, both of which are expanded schematic views of a car windscreen.

10 Windscreen 10 illustrated in Fig 1 comprises an inner sheet of glass 11 laminated to an outer sheet of glass 13 by means of a sheet of pvb 12.

The windscreen is substantially trapezial in shape having a top edge 21, a longer bottom edge 23 substantially parallel thereto and side edges 22, 24. The windscreen has a spherical, curved configuration so that it is curved both along 15 an axis parallel to the top edge 21 and along an axis perpendicular to the top edge 21 (for ease of representation the curvature of the windscreen is not shown).

An electrically conducting solar control layer 25 is positioned between the inner and outer sheets of glass 11,13. Typically this is a multi-layer coating having the general configuration antireflective dielectric layer/ silver containing layer/ 20 antireflective dielectric layer/ silver containing layer/ antireflective dielectric layer deposited by sputtering. The coating layer may be carried for example on the inner face of the outer sheet of glass 13 (i.e. face 2) or on a supporting film, for example of PET.

The coating layer 25 is spaced from the external periphery of the 25 windscreen by a non-conducting peripheral band (not shown) provided in this example by a band in which the coating layer has either not been deposited or has been removed. This prevents the electrically conductive coating extending to the very edge of the windscreen and may also reduce the risk of corrosion of the coating layer.

30 A data transmission window 27 is provided as part of the glazing panel within the coating layer. In the example of Fig 1, the data transmission window 27 is partially surrounded by the coating layer 25 but in other embodiments it may be entirely surrounded. The data transmission window may be formed by removing a portion of the coating layer or by masking when the coating layer is deposited.

35 Electrical power is supplied to the coating layer via a first bus bar 31 arranged in contact with the coating layer 25 adjacent to the first side edge 22 of the windscreen and a second bus bar 32 arranged in contact with the coating layer 25

adjacent to the second side edge 23 of the windscreens. The bus bars may be formed in any suitable manner, for example by silk screen printing of a conducting enamel material underneath or on top of the coating layer or by means of conducting tape or conductive strips, for example conductive copper or tinned copper strips.

5 Connectors (not shown) for facilitating connection of the bus bars to a car's electrical circuit may protrude from the glazing and may be arranged adjacent to each other (not shown).

In Fig 2, the data transmission window 27 is entirely surrounded by the coating layer 25.

10 Each of these arrangements may be used to allow the coating layer to cover at least the majority of the light transmitting surface of the windscreens without provoking significant perturbation in the heating arrangement of the coating layer.

15 Whilst the invention has been particularly described in relation to a windscreens it will be understood that it is applicable to other automotive glazing panels, for example, side windows, rear windows and sunroofs.

Claims

1. An automotive glazing panel having an electrically heatable solar control coating layer, spaced first and second bus bars adapted to relay electrical power to the coating layer and a data transmission window, in which the data transmission window is positioned adjacent the top edge of the glazing panel, the first bus bar is positioned adjacent a first side edge of the glazing panel and the second bus bar is positioned adjacent a second side edge of the glazing panel.
- 10 2. An automotive glazing panel having an electrically heatable solar control coating layer, spaced first and second bus bars adapted to relay electrical power to the coating layer and a data transmission window, in which the data transmission window is positioned adjacent the bottom edge of the glazing panel, the first bus bar is positioned adjacent a first side edge of the glazing panel and the second bus bar is positioned adjacent a second side edge of the glazing panel.
- 15 3. An automotive glazing panel in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2, in which the data transmission window is substantially elongate in shape with its elongation stretching substantially parallel to the top and/or bottom edge of the glazing panel.
- 20 4. An automotive glazing panel in accordance with any preceding claim in which the glazing panel is an automotive windscreens.
- 25 5. An automotive glazing panel in accordance with any preceding claim in which the data transmission window is at least partially surrounded by the coating layer.
- 30 6. An automotive glazing panel in accordance with any preceding claim in which the data transmission window is substantially surrounded by the coating layer.
- 35 7. An automotive glazing panel in accordance with any preceding claim in which the minimum distance between the periphery of the data transmission window and either of the first or second bus bars is at least 300 mm.

8. A glazing panel
in which the glazing panel perimeter comprises at least a top edge, a bottom edge and first and second side edges, the bottom edge being longer than
5 the top edge and substantially parallel thereto and each of the side edges being substantially the same length as each other and shorter than the top edge,
in which the glazing panel is provided with an electrically heatable solar
control coating layer over at least part of its surface area,
10 in which the glazing panel is provided with a data transmission window adapted to permit electromagnetic data transmission therethrough,
in which the data transmission window permits transmission of a greater proportion of incident electromagnetic data than the proportion of incident electromagnetic data transmitted by an equivalently sized portion of the
15 glazing panel provided with the solar control coating,
in which the data transmission window is at least in part surrounded by the coating layer and is positioned adjacent to either the top edge or the bottom edge of the glazing panel,
in which the first bus bar is arranged substantially adjacent to and extends
20 substantially along the first side edge of the glazing panel
and in which the second bus bar is arranged substantially adjacent to and extends substantially along the second side edge of the glazing panel.

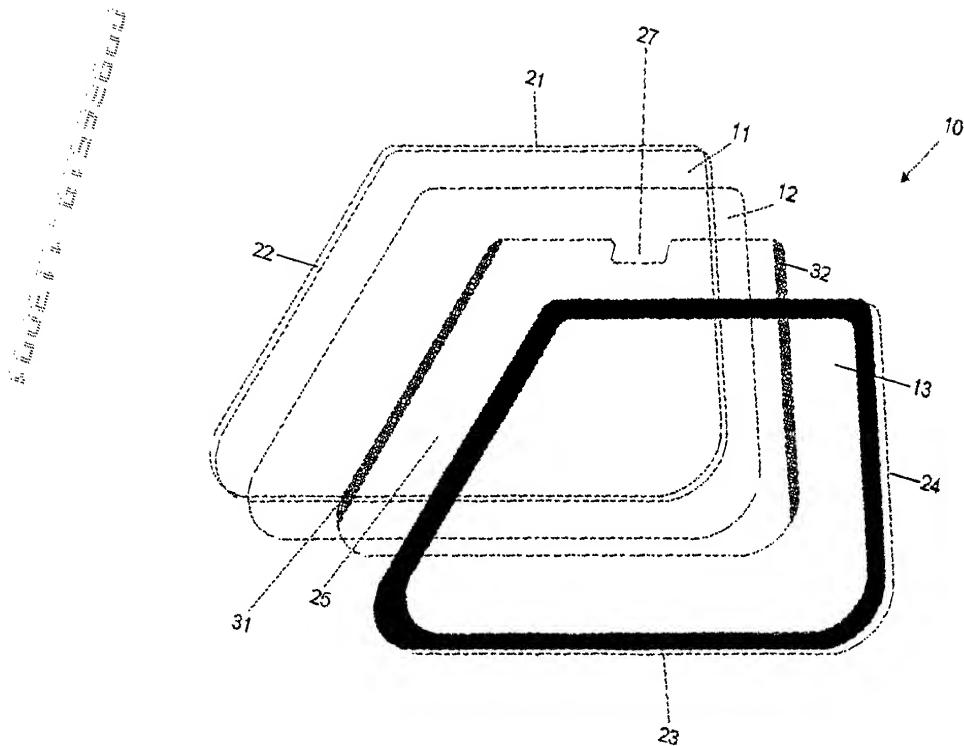
9. A method of controlling heat dissipation over at least part of the surface area
25 of an automotive glazing panel comprising use of an arrangement in accordance with any preceding claim.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 9, in which heat dissipation is controlled
to be substantially even over the majority of the surface area of the glazing
30 panel.

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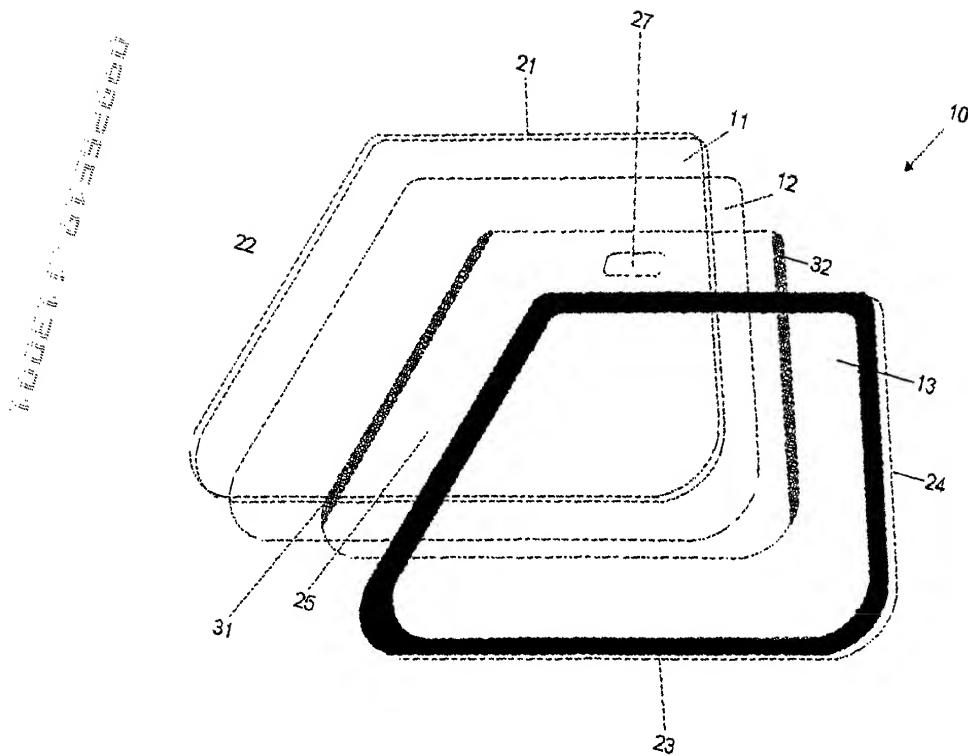
1/2

Fig 1



2/2

Fig 2



Docket No.: 4004-025-30

Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**AN AUTOMOTIVE GLAZING PANEL WITH SOLAR CONTROL COATING
COMPRISING A DATA TRANSMISSION WINDOW**

the specification of which

is attached hereto.

was filed as Application Serial No. 09/926,519

and amended on 14 November 2001

was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/EP00/04199

on 1 May 2000

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on _____ (if applicable).

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s)

Application No.	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed	
<u>99201566.9</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>20 MAY 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(e) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)

And we (I) hereby appoint Steven B. Kelber, Reg. No. 30,073; Marc R. Labgold, Ph.D., Reg. No. 34,651; Jerold I. Schneider, Reg. No. 24,765; Paul C. Kimball, Reg. No. 34,641; Laura A. Donnelly, Reg. No. 38,435; Wilburn L. Chesser, Reg. No. 41,668; James M. Heintz, Reg. No. 41,828; Laura D. Nammo, Reg. No. 42,024; Perry E. VanOver, Reg. No. 42,197; Amy L. Miller, Reg. No. 43,804; Raymond Millien, Reg. No. 43,806; Lisa K. Norton, Reg. No. 44,977; Kenneth Vu, Reg. No. 46,323 and Christopher W. Raimund, Reg. No. 47,258, as our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to Supervisor, Patent Prosecution Services, Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe LLP, 1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2412.

100 We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Etienne DEGAND

NAME OF FIRST JOINT INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

16 novembre 2001

Date

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Christophe MAZA

NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR

[Signature]
Signature of Inventor23/11/01
Date

NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR

[Signature]
Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR

[Signature]
Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR

[Signature]
Signature of Inventor

Date

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Residence:

Citizen of:

Post Office Address:

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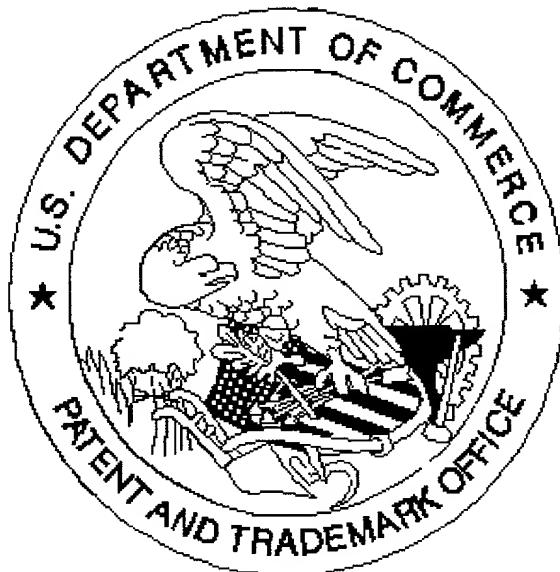
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